



Town of Rowe  
**Board of Selectmen** Minutes  
Tuesday, November 3, 2020 –4:00 p.m.  
VIA TELECONFERENCE

*This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**Board of Selectmen:** Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semanie  
**Absent:** Selectman Ed Silva  
**Administrative Staff:** Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary  
**Other Attendees:** Board of Health Chair Margaret Rice  
**Audience of Citizens:** Ben Werner, Director of Rowe Camp and Conference Center

**Call to Order:** Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M., a quorum of the board present via remote participation.

**MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:**

**Chair Sokol:**                   **yes**

**Silva:**                               **absent**

**Vice-Chair Semanie:**   **yes**

**Background:** This group of individuals (self-titled "Covid Group") has been meeting weekly for the past few months to listen to the state Covid-19 briefings and discuss ongoing matters in town related to the pandemic. As Board of Health Clerk Joanne Semanie was elected last Saturday to the Board of Selectmen, there is now a quorum of the board present during these weekly meetings, and as such, must take place in open session.

**Covid Discussion:** The following points/topics were addressed during discussion:

Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice provided the following updates:

- Chair Rice reported attendance of a meeting with the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments COVID-19 Roundtable discussion and there was concern over the numbers of COVID-19 cases climbing in Massachusetts.
- The Thanksgiving Holiday was discussed and the advice presented was to limit the gathering to households
- It was advised that masks be worn at all times when leaving the house
- It was advised to not go out past 9:30 p.m.
- There would be a \$500.00 fine imposed on people non-complying with the orders
- Executive Secretary said she had put information on the website with links to websites and informational resources

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**The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:**

"Good Evening Rowe Residents,

The following is the weekly message regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and includes important information regarding changes to the state-level restrictions in place to prevent further spread of the virus.

On November 2nd, Governor Charlie Baker updated several emergency measures regarding limiting the spread of the Coronavirus. A full detailing of these updated emergency orders is available on the Massachusetts website, [Mass.Gov](https://www.mass.gov).

Some important items to note from the updated orders include a reduction on the size limits for gatherings, an update to face mask requirements, and an update to the stay-at-home advisory. Specifically:

- Gathering size limits at private residences have been reduced to a maximum of 10 for indoor gatherings, and a maximum of 25 for outdoor gatherings.
- All people are now required to wear face-coverings in all public places, even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others.
- All residents of Massachusetts are advised to stay home between the hours of 10pm and 5am.

These updated measures take effect beginning on Friday, November 6, 2020. Additional information can be obtained by visiting [Mass.Gov](https://www.mass.gov)

Additional information about the effect of these safety measures on holiday celebrations or gatherings may be detailed in future messages, and we will provide any pertinent information to you when we have it.

Finally, a reminder that if you are eligible to vote in today's election, but are among the few who have not yet done so, the polls are open until 8pm at the Rowe Elementary School.

The Rowe Coronavirus task force will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis, typically with weekly updates or when prudent.

Thank you, and stay healthy"

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting 4:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Semanie.**

**MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:**

**Chair Sokol:**                      **yes**

**Silva:**                                **absent**

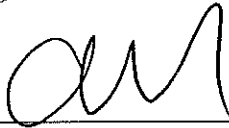
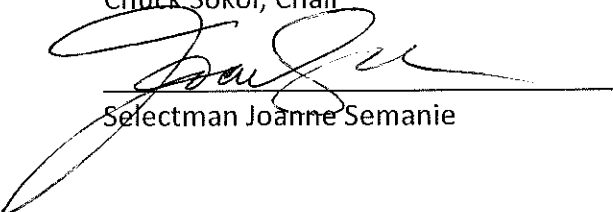
**Vice-Chair Semanie:**        **yes**

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *NOVEMBER 12, 2020*

Approved:

  
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Chuck Sokol, Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Selectman Joanne Semanie

**Documents:**

- Agenda November 3, 2020